



Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage  
658 Cedar Street, Suite G57  
St. Paul MN 55155  
cmah@state.mn.us | 651-757-1750

### **The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage Stands in Solidarity Against Police Violence Globally**

The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (the Council) stands in solidarity with our brothers and sisters fighting for justice and against police brutality in Philadelphia, Nigeria, and all across the world. Whether it occurs locally or internationally, police brutality impacts the freedom, safety, and lives of people of African heritage.

Our eyes and hearts are tired of the senseless killing of Black people by those who are supposed to protect us. We are tired of the lack of accountability and the lack of repercussions in the midst of an abundance of injustice. We have repeatedly seen Black lives taken at the hands of those allegedly sworn to protect us.

Unfortunately, justice for people of African heritage is often “conveniently” misplaced. We have to look no further than Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile, Jamar Clark, Tamir Rice, Aiyana Stanley-Jones, and the far too many others whose lives were devalued. Thankfully, we’ve seen progress made in some of the recent instances of police violence. Locally, Attorney General Keith Ellison is exercising a strong and measured hand as Special Prosecutor in the trial of the murderers of George Floyd. In Nigeria, the governor of Lagos has called for a full investigation after admitting that military officers shot at peaceful protestors. We join in the calls for the leaders in Philadelphia to act transparently and justly in response to the shooting death of Walter Wallace, Jr. We remain hopeful that these instances of police violence will be met with real accountability.

We are also doing more than simply hoping. We’re speaking out against gross injustices. We are partnering with community organizations and leaders to push for transformative and sustainable solutions. We’re working with our new Executive Director, Linda Sloan, and Council staff to ensure we effectively collaborate with the Governor’s office and our elected officials to bring about real policy changes and true justice for all.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nerita Hughes'.

Dr. Nerita Hughes  
Chair

#### **Members of the Council**

Chair, Nerita Hughes  
Vice Chair, Wayne Doe  
Treasurer, Alfreda Daniels  
Secretary, Twauna Mullins

Hollies Winston  
Quinton Bonds  
Biftu Bussa  
Debra Leigh

Carl Crawford  
Jude Nnadi  
Andre Dukes  
Rep. Mohamud Noor

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The Minnesota Legislature empowered the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to ensure that people of African heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources, policies and procedures of the State of Minnesota. Generally, the Council is charged with the responsibility of:

- Advising the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting People of African Heritage;
- Advising the Governor and the Legislature on statutes, rules and revisions to programs to ensure that Black people have access to benefits and services provided to people in Minnesota;
- Serving as a liaison to the federal government, local government units and private organizations on matters relating to People of African Heritage in Minnesota;
- Implementing programs designed to solve problems of People of African Heritage when authorized by statute, rule or order; and
- Publicizing the accomplishments of People of African Heritage and their contributions to the state.

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